

# Decolonising the Latin American universities, 23 March 2021



00:30:56 Rajani Naidoo: Thank you Alma for a great presentation. There is epistemic relativity but are there also important overlaps between progressive forms of science and indigenous knowledge ?

00:32:21 Alma Maldonado: yes, there are, perhaps even more in areas such as ecology and environment

00:40:47 Rajani Naidoo: powerful presentation Carolina

00:41:10 Carolina Guzman Valenzuela: Good to see you, Rajani, thank you!

00:44:43 Simon Marginson: Time to think about questions, statements etc. Put your voice forward, come into the Chat and then to the webinar! Your ideas please! These are really important issues

00:45:36 Pete Leihy: There are a couple of Amerindian languages that have more speakers today than ever (Quechua and Guaraní) - what rôle have Ues had in their support (and vice versa)?

00:47:12 Simon Marginson: we have three questions and there's room for many more

00:47:37 Pete Leihy: Don't make me ask all of the questions

00:47:43 Tristan McCowan: Thanks all for a fantastic session today.

Alma mentioned that the university is essentially European, though there were other traditions of higher education globally.

Are there any older traditions in LAm (e.g. Maya) that can be drawn on in reconstructing the university? If not, are there contemporary practices from which indigenous groups draw their inspiration? What does a decolonised u-niversity look like in practice?

00:48:46 philip altbach: Did the Spanish (and Portuguese) university tradition have a specific impact on Latin America? And how might this model affect LA universities today?

00:52:01 David Mills: Yes, thanks everyone - really fascinating. I wonder if Alma you could talk about your concerns about the Mexican Govt's commitment to horizontal connections. Is this not a rhetoric that signals a desire to build new regional and pan-hemispheric links, away from North-South inequalities ?

00:54:44 Rocío Vera-Flores: I think it is also important to look at the influences of the colonial antecedents of anthropology and archeology as curricula within universities and educational centers devoted exclusively to anthropology and archeology. And I speak from the specific context of Mexico, as an indigenous woman who studied archeology. Anthropology continues to distract us from important issues, it continues to hide our voices and faces in diversity.

00:55:16 Hongwei Gu: Great thanks to all three speakers for their disseminating presentations, my question is given the prominence of decolonization as a framework in student and teacher - led movements today, why has it gained particular purchase in the contemporary higher education context?

00:56:02 Amanda Earl: Alma mentioned a worry about epistemic relativism. I'm wondering if the other panelists have thoughts about this and some examples of how alternative/Intercultural universities have been contributing to strengthening the quality of the curriculum students are receiving?

01:02:03 Cristina Carvalho: Thanks all for this relevant topic. I would like to heard you about the importance and resistance to implement the Cotas programs in universities and meritocracy in Latin American.

01:03:26 Rajani Naidoo: Wonderful presentation Gunter

01:06:06 CGHE Webinars: Thank you for joining us today. A recording of this webinar will be on the CGHE site tomorrow morning: <https://www.researchcghe.org/events/cghe-seminar/decolonising-the-latin-american-universities/>

01:06:35 Amanda Earl: Sure, my question is very similar to Rajani's. Thank you

01:07:40 CGHE Webinars: Our next webinar will be on Thursday and will feature former Universities Minister, Jo Johnson, with Jonathan Grant and Janet Ilieva. The topic is 'The China question: Managing risks and maximising benefits from partnership in higher education and research'. You can register here: <https://www.researchcghe.org/events/cghe-seminar/the-china-question-managing-risks-and-maximising-benefits-from-partnership-in-higher-education-and-research/>

01:11:57 Rajani Naidoo: Gunter, the same is happening with the German language in German universities? Rankings and the pressures for publications in English are eroding the use of German in universities ?

01:13:06 Gunther Dietz: Yes, Rajani, as far as I know old, well established academic journals in Germany are forcing authors to write and publish in English...

01:18:15 Rowena Azada-Palacios: I have to slip out now for the school run, but thank you for the very interesting discussion.

01:18:46 Trif Victorița: Thank you!

01:19:05 Alma Maldonado: Thank you for all your questions!

01:19:14 Alma Maldonado: Thank you Caro for putting this together!

01:19:15 Cristina Carvalho: Thanks all for this relevant topic.

01:19:50 Carolina Guzman Valenzuela: Regards to everyone, thank you!